UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,484	09/12/2003	Hidekazu Ozawa	117103	6333

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EXAMINER
LETT, THOMAS J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/660,484	OZAWA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thomas J. Lett	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *12 September 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-14* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *12 September 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date *12 September 2003*.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1.   Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-

(d). The certified copy of Japanese patent application number 2003-081356, filed on 24 March

2003, has been received and made of record.

Information Disclosure Statement

2.   The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on the following date is in

compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and is being considered by the Examiner:

Title

3.   The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly

indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Objections

4.   Claims 1,6,13 and 14 are objected to because of the following informalities: Examiner

asks Applicant to place a comma before and after the phrase "representing as a series of

processes" if that is the intent of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

5.   Claims 1 and 6 are objected to because of the following informalities: Examiner asks

Applicant to remove a comma between the terms "operation, screen" (line 9) if that is the intent

of the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6.   Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakagiri et al

(US 6,924,826 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Nakagiri et al disclose an image processing apparatus (printing

control apparatus of figure 1) comprising:

an acquisition component for acquiring an instruction data (host computer 3000 of the

printer control apparatus receives printer instructions for a document and sends these

instructions to a spool file 303, col. 6, lines 53-56) in which process information representing as

a series of processes a process performed to document data and setting information including

at least a setting item and a setting value (printing instructions, col. 6, lines 58-61; e.g. collate

(reads on setting) sixteen (reads on value) pages) for setting execution contents of the

processes are described;

a display component (e.g., a display screen shown in Fig. 18) for displaying a screen on

the basis of screen information, which can include an operation, screen (see "PRINTING

SETTINGS" tab of Fig. 18) for setting a piece of setting information described in the instruction

data;

a designation component for, when the setting information included in the instruction

data has an attribute representing that changing of the setting information is restricted,

designating as a display pattern of the setting information having the attribute a display pattern that is different from a display pattern of changeable setting information (the display is changed to reflect selectable options that weren't restricted, col. 24, lines 39-59); and

a display information control component (e.g., a display screen shown in Fig. 18) for outputting screen information for displaying the setting information in accordance with the display pattern.

Regarding claim 2, Nakagiri et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the designation component designates a display pattern in which the setting information is not displayed (the display is changed to reflect selectable options that weren't restricted, col. 24, lines 39-59. The settings are grayed out and therefore cannot be seen, col. 21, lines 5-13).

Regarding claim 3, Nakagiri et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the designation component designates as the display pattern a pattern in which image information representing that the setting information is unchangeable is added (the display is changed to reflect selectable options that weren't restricted, col. 24, lines 39-59. The settings are grayed out and therefore cannot be seen, col. 21, lines 5-13).

Regarding claim 4, Nakagiri et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the designation component designates as the display pattern a pattern in which the setting information is fixed (the display is changed to reflect selectable options that weren't restricted, col. 24, lines 39-59. The fixed settings are grayed out and therefore cannot be seen or selected, col. 21, lines 5-13).

Regarding claim 5, Nakagiri et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein, when a usage authorization is set in the setting information included in the instruction data, the designation component designates the display pattern on the basis of the usage authorization (see figure 23 for usage authorization parameters).

Regarding claim 6, Nakagiri et al disclose an image processing apparatus (printing control apparatus of figure 1) comprising:

an acquisition component for acquiring an instruction data (host computer 3000 of the printer control apparatus receives printer instructions for a document and sends these instructions to a spool file 303, col. 6, lines 53-56) in which process information representing as a series of processes a process performed to document data and setting information including at least a setting item and a setting value (printing instructions, col. 6, lines 58-61; e.g. collate (reads on setting) sixteen (reads on value) pages) for setting execution contents of the processes are described;

a display component for displaying a screen (e.g., a display screen shown in Fig. 18) on the basis of screen information, which can include an operation, screen for setting a piece of setting information described in the instruction data (see "PRINTING SETTINGS" tab of Fig. 18);

an input component for inputting the setting information (using pull-down menus or inputting other parameters in figure 18); and

an evaluation component for evaluating, when setting information included in the instruction data has an attribute representing that the setting information is changeable, the setting information input by the input component on the basis of the attribute ("PRINTING SETTINGS" tab has a changeable setting selection of # of copies and the number is evaluated based on the range of 1-255. Inherently, if the evaluation shows a value outside of said range, an error/prompt will appear to the user.).

Regarding claim 7, Nakagiri et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 6, wherein the evaluation component evaluates, when an inputtable range of the setting information is expressed as the attribute, whether an input value of the setting information obtained by the input component falls within the inputtable range ("PRINTING SETTINGS" tab has a changeable setting selection of # of copies and the number is evaluated based on the

range of 1-255. Inherently, if the evaluation shows a value outside of said inputtable range, an error/prompt will appear to the user.).

Regarding claim 8, Nakagiri et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 6, wherein the evaluation component evaluates, when input essentiality of the setting information is expressed as the attribute, whether inputting of the setting information is performed by the input component.

Regarding claim 9, Nakagiri et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 6, wherein the evaluation component evaluates, when an input character type of the setting information is expressed as the attribute, whether an input value of the setting information obtained by the input component is the input character type (Nakagiri teaches of parameter settings for editing fonts which would inherently occur in a display screen).

Regarding claim 10, Nakagiri et al disclose an input processing apparatus of claim 6, wherein the display component further displays an evaluation result obtained by the evaluation component ("PRINTING SETTINGS" tab has a changeable setting selection of # of copies and the number is evaluated based on the range of 1-255. Inherently, if the evaluation shows a value outside of said range, an error/prompt will appear to the user.).

Regarding claim 11, Nakagiri et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a change component for changing input setting information to predetermined setting information when an evaluation result obtained by the evaluation component is evaluated to be incorrect ("PRINTING SETTINGS" tab has a changeable setting selection of # of copies and the number is evaluated based on the range of 1-255. Inherently, if the evaluation shows a value outside of said range, an error/prompt will appear to the user. The user would then input a proper setting within the range.).

Regarding claim 12, Nakagiri et al disclose an image processing apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a setting information storage component for storing setting information input

by the input component, wherein, when the next screen is displayed, the setting information stored in the setting information storage component is used ("PRINTING SETTINGS" tab has a changeable setting selection of # of copies and the number is evaluated based on the range of 1-255. Inherently, if the evaluation shows a value outside of said range, an error/prompt will appear to the user. The user would then input a proper setting within the range in the next screen.).

Claim 13, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as claim 1.

Claim 14, a method claim, is rejected for the same reason as claim 6.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Lett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7464. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER